



## **Closing Remarks by**

**Mr. Boubacar Djibo, Director, Air Transport Bureau**

**International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

**at the Second ICAO Air Cargo Development Forum**

*(Zhengzhou, China, 5-7 September 2018)*

1. It has been a pleasure for me to be with you here at this Second ICAO Air Cargo Development Forum.
2. I wish to offer ICAO's profound appreciation to our co-organisers of this event, the Civil Aviation Management Institute of China, the Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone and the Beijing Zhenwei Exhibition Company Limited, as well as our host, the People's Government of Zhengzhou City for the warm hospitality and excellent organization and facilities provided.
3. ICAO appreciates the time, insightful and interactive presentations and viewpoints we have shared on different aspects of air cargo services, including facilitating global liberalization of air cargo services, improving air cargo connectivity and supply chain, and optimizing the benefits of air cargo services in a liberalized environment among others.

4. Our primary focus here was to build holistic, transformative approach to the removal of regulatory and operational impediments by liberalizing air cargo services worldwide, as well as defragmenting the air cargo supply chain in order to fully maximize the benefits to air cargo services for all stakeholders, particularly to States where air cargo is regarded as a lifeline.
5. We certainly have not been disappointed in this regard, as we have heard your experts' views and invaluable suggestions in the last two days on how we can together shape the future of air cargo business.
6. Most of you have underscored the need for appropriate regulatory arrangements to be made for air cargo services, different from those applying to international air passenger services, to enable air cargo respond more efficiently to market developments and demands.
7. This is in line with the ongoing effort of ICAO to develop a specific international agreement to facilitate the further liberalization of air cargo services. I would like to reassure you that ICAO will intensify its efforts and work with States and other stakeholder to finalize the agreement in the shortest possible time.

8. As we have heard throughout this event, that air cargo plays a vital role in ensuring the competitiveness and commercial success of a large number of industries across the globe.
9. To sustain this critical role and have access to wider markets, air cargo operators must explore the possibility of changing their business models through alliances and partnership.
10. In addition, they must engage well trained and highly skilled personnel in order to overcome the challenges of emerging technologies to the shipments of air cargo.
11. We have all agreed that the booming of e-commerce poses a possibility to facilitate the development of air cargo services. To achieve this, air cargo services will be required to satisfy demands of e-commerce customers for quick responses, flexible services and transparency of the total process from pickup to delivery.
12. Views have therefore been expressed for air cargo carriers to further integrate their IT systems with other logistics providers and with e-commerce marketplaces so as to expand the share of air cargo in the exponential growth of e-commerce activities.
13. It has been emphasized that continued development in aviation infrastructure capacity is critical to our desired outcome. This requires substantial long term investments in the expansion and

modernization of quality aviation infrastructure consistent with ICAO's growth forecasts and the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASPs).

14. Accordingly, ICAO's aspirational goal of "no constraints of infrastructure capacity, technology and financial resources for aviation development" will continue to strengthen common understanding on infrastructure requirements and expectations as well as foster effective partnerships between investors and States.
15. I want to add my voice to all those that have advocated for the elevation and prioritization of the aviation sector in the Belt and Road initiative. This would create a balance with other modes of transport, in the interest of multi-modal initiative.
16. I also acknowledge your call for States to share information, best practices, data and statistics on developments, regulatory practices and operations of air cargo, e-commerce and use of unmanned aircraft and cargo drones.
17. This action of information sharing among States and other relevant stakeholders would help enhance transparency of the market and mainstream priorities of the aviation sector.
18. In closing, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to inform you that ICAO is working collaboratively with the World Custom's

Organization (WCO) and other stakeholders on improving the fragmented and cumbersome air cargo supply chain processes, particularly moving from paper-based documentation to up-to-date e-air waybills.

19. I must not forget to once again call on States that are yet to ratify the Montreal Convention of 1999 (MC99) to please do so as matter priority.
20. Ladies and gentlemen, our efforts in improving the operating environment of air cargo services, are geared toward promoting air cargo safety, increasing air connectivity and ensuring that the speed of air cargo and e-commerce is no longer undermined.
21. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to our speakers and moderators for the excellent presentations and thought provoking discussions we have had in the past two days.
22. Finally, I would also like to reiterate ICAO's gratitude to our host, the people's Government of Zhengzhou City, our co-organizers, the Civil Aviation Management Institute of China, the Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone and the Beijing Zhenwei Exhibition Company Limited.
23. Thank you all and have safe journeys home.

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